the Three Kingdoms, and the majority of them obviously could not have been the descendants of Meng Huo. Perhaps this claim is merely an expression of hero worship--in the same way as the Chinese consider themselves descendants of Huang Ti /The Yellow Emperor/--with no further implications. 173

There is another myth among the Lolo concerning the origin of their tribes. It is said that Heaven had three sons: the eldest was an I, the second a Fan (Tibetan), and the youngest a Han. Heaven, favoring the youngest son, gave him the plains; he gave the hilly regions to the second son; and the high mountains and barren lands he left for the eldest (the I).

Of the native tribes in the southwestern part of our country, the Lolo are among the most numerous. They are distributed in the provinces of Szechwan, Sikang and Yünnan. The largest number is found in Yünnan province, next in Sikang province and the Ning districts. The question as to whether these tribes had always lived in these regions or whether they had migrated from elsewhere has yet to be examined. Chinese and Western specialists /94/ have expressed various opinions and have not yet been able to arrive at an agreement. The majority of them, however, think that the I tribes migrated from other places. Both the Chu-shu chi-nien /The Bamboo Annals/ and the T'ung-chien kang-mu /An outline of the Comprehensive Mirror, which is an abridged Chinese history/ maintain that Chih Yu, after his defeat in the north, retreated to the south, then further to the southwest, and lived in seclusion in the mountains. From him sprang the Miao and Lolo tribes of the southwestern border area. In his study "Lu-nan hsiang-tu li-shih ta-kang" /A Summary of the Local History of Lu-nan/ (in Lu-nan-hsien hsiang-t'u k'ao chi-yao)/A Critical Summary of the Local History of Lunan Hsien/ edited by Yang I-po and published by the Middle School of Yünnan University, the seventh month of the twenty eighth year of the Chinese Republic; mimeographed and not for sale) Mr. Li T'ing maintains that the Tibetan-Burmese group of Yünnan province (an intermediate tribal group, one branch of which is known as the I) probably migrated from the northwest. Many Western researchers assert that the Lolo came from the west (e.g., the boundary region between Tibet and Burma). Others think that they migrated westward from Kweichow province. On the other hand, there is also the so-called "indigenous theory" which says that the Lolo are natives of the southwest. This theory is quite possible, for they need not all have migrated. In this case the present-day Lolo of Liang-shan are no doubt the descendants

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